



FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Department of Health and Family Services * Division of Public Health

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Publication Number PPH 44030

YOUTH FARM WORKER PINNED UNDER OVERTURNED HORSE-DRAWN MANURE SLED

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received 127 reports of fatal occupational injuries in 2000. One of those occurred when a horse-drawn box sled loaded with manure overturned on a youth farm worker.

This fact sheet describes the incident and requests that farm safety professionals and farmers who use box sleds bring the following recommendations to the attention of farm workers.

THE INCIDENT

A 16-year-old male farm worker died when a horse-drawn sled loaded with manure overturned on him. The victim had driven the horses with the sled to a snow-covered hillside about a half-mile from the farmstead to spread the load of manure. He was in the wooden box that was piled high with manure, using a pitchfork to throw it out the back of the box. The long rectangular box sat on the cross braces attached to the sled runners. Wooden dowels projected up from the cross braces and through the bottom of the box to prevent the box from shifting side-to-side.



Apparently, the box tipped sideways off the runners, trapping the victim under the load and the box. When the horses returned to the farmstead pulling the sled runners, the victim's family went to the field and found him under the box.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent similar occurrences, farm workers who use box sleds should:

- **Attach the box securely to the sled runners with devices that prevent it from lifting off.**
- **flatten the load and avoid standing in the box to keep a low center of gravity on the sled.**

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

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